Cost cut measures of Doordarshan

1910. SHRI PARMESHWER KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has been making cost cut measures;

(b) if so, what is the result of such measures; and

(c) whether as a part of such measures, any fresh appointments at a very high cost have been avoided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a result of austerity measures the expenditure in Prasar Bharati has been contained within the sanctioned budget only.

(c) Fresh engagements are being made on functional requirement basis.

Failure of Doordarshan to cover live Film Festival

1911. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention hajs been drawn to the news-item captioned DD fails again to cover film festival live as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 10th February, 2000;

(b) whether the Doordarshan could not cover the MIFF-2000 lyive at Mumbai in the month of February this year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to revamp the functioning of Doordarshan to compete with other private channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that inaugural function of MIFF-2000 was covered live on DD-I on 5.2.2000 from 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.. However, due to programme exigencies, the closing function could not be covered live on DD-I/ DD-II. The recording of the closing function was telecast on DD News Channel at 11.02 p.m. on 10.2.2000.

(d) Prasar Bharati have intimated that it is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to bring about qualitative improvement in its programmes to sustain viewers' interest and to make them attractive so as to enable them to successfully compete with the programmes telecast on private channels. Changes have been made in the Fixed Point C art to include a wide variety of programming. Presentation and transmission of programmes has also been done in sleek and professional manner with a view to attract better viewership. For improving the quality of signals for better reception by viewers, digitalized transmission has been started in satellite mode.

LPT and HPT Centres in Orissa

1912. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the places in Orissa where LPT and HPT centres have been set up in financial years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 and till December 2000;

(b) whether some of these Doordarshan Kendras are located in the coastal districts which have been badly damaged by the super cyclone in October, 1999;

(c) if so, the extent of damage caused to each such T. V. centre;

(d) the steps taken to repair these LPT, HPT centres; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Following transmitters were commissioned in Orissa during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000:

(i) HPT at Baleshwar,

(ii) LPTs at Birmitrapur, Gondiya, Karanjia, Khariar, Mohana, Padua, Patnagarh, Rajgangpur, Similiguda:

(iii) VLPTs at Aul, Barpalli, Chitrakonda, Kalmpur, Kossara, Nagchi, Similipalgarh and Subdega.

(b) Of the above, HPT, Baleshwar and VLPT, Aul are located in coastal districts which were affected by the super cyclone.

(c) to (e) No. damage was caused to HPT, Baleshwar. At VLPT, Aul, based of Paraboli Dish Antenna and structure of solar panel were damaged, costing